

# Using the Armor of God

(Ephesians 6:10-18)

## Introduction

The past few weeks we've been studying the pieces of a Roman soldier's armor and how they relate to our spiritual walk with Jesus.

Let's begin by reading Ephesians 6:10-13

*A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (11) Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. (12) For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.*

Let's do some review. Let's talk about the pieces of the soldier's armor that he can put on. We call those his "defensive" weapons because they protect him from enemy attacks.

Verse	Piece of Armor	How You Put it On
14	Belt of Truth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By learning as much as we can of the Bible's truths</li> <li>2. By always being truthful in everything we do.</li> </ol>
14	Breastplate of Righteousness	By choosing to do the right things... things God approves of.
15	Gospel of Peace Shoes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By making peace with God by receiving His gift of</li> </ol>

Verse	Piece of Armor	How You Put it On
		salvation.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. By making peace with others by forgiving them as God has forgiven you.</li> </ol>
16	Shield of Faith	By believing and trusting in God's promises.
17	Helmet of Salvation	By guarding the thoughts that come into your mind.

What are the "offensive" weapons the Christian soldier has?

17	Sword of the Spirit	By remembering Bible verses.
18	Prayer and Watchfulness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By keeping the communication lines open with the Lord.</li> <li>2. By keeping an eye opened for the attacks of the enemy.</li> </ol>

Now we need to figure out how to use all these pieces of the Christian soldier's armor in everyday life. To do that I'm going to read you a story about Brian. As you listen to me tell this story, see if you can think of ways he should have used the Armor of God.

## Opening Prayer

Lord, it's great that You gave us a way to do combat with our enemy, but it gets a little complicated sometimes to remember just how to put on the Armor of God and how to use it. I pray that this morning you will give the children really attentive ears so that they won't be caught with their shield down – exposed to Satan's attacks. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

## Memory Verse

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 10:10-11)*

## Lesson

[Teacher, read the following story to your students:]

Brian jumped on his bike and headed down the street to Doug's house.

"Hi, Doug," he called. "I just got my allowance. I've just enough to buy that knife like yours now. Want to come along?"

Doug went for his bike and together the boys pedaled downtown. "I hope there's still one there," Doug said. "There weren't many left the other day." Doug nodded, but Brian didn't notice.

They screeched to a stop in front of Joe's Sporting Goods and hurried inside. "There it is," Brian exclaimed and then caught his breath. "Boy! Look at that. Only one left." Suddenly he stopped. He asked Doug, "What was the price the other day?"

"One dollar and fifty cents," Doug answered.

"That's what I thought. Now look. The price is \$2.00. I don't have \$2.00. And, if I don't buy it now it will be gone," Brian moaned. "I've just got to have it for camp next week."

Doug moved closer to Brian and whispered, "The store is nearly empty. No one is looking our way. Just drop it into your pocket. No one will ever know."

Hardly thinking what he did, Brian slipped his hand into his pocket and the knife was there, too. The boys turned and slowly walked out of the store. Doug was whistling. Brian's breath came in short quick gasps. They rode fast until they came to the park.

Brian pulled his bike behind a clump of bushes and plopped down on the ground. Doug followed. "Doug, I shouldn't have done that," Brian panted.

"Why not? No one need ever know." Doug said.

"God knows," Brian answered. His heart pounded too much to say any more. But he was thinking, God saw me and I sinned against Him by stealing.

Brian was a Christian. He remembered the day when he had first understood he was a sinner. The Bible said he had been born with a sinful heart (Psalm 51:5). He realized that because he was a sinner he did wrong things. He learned that because of sin, he was separated from God. The Bible said, "The wages of sin is death," and that death meant separation from God. But Brian also learned that God loved him and had made a way for him to be saved from the penalty of sin.

These things were not only true of Brian, they are true of you, too, and of every person who has been born into this world. God wants you to be in Heaven with Him some day, but your sin — lying, stealing, cheating, disobedience, meanness — cannot enter Heaven. God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, came from Heaven to earth to take the punishment for your sins.

Brian knew the Bible says, "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3). He had learned that Jesus gave His precious blood in payment for his sins. Brian knew, too, that Jesus rose from the grave, never to die again and that He lives in Heaven.

After Brian received the Lord Jesus, he began to love Him very much. He wanted to do the things that pleased Him. When he did something wrong and displeased the Lord, Brian was not happy until he talked to the Lord about that sin. The Bible calls that confessing his sin — admitting to God that what he had done was wrong — and being forgiven. But Brian was sure he had never done anything as bad as taking that knife.

Why had he done it? Have you ever done something like stealing or lying, or saying a bad word and wished you hadn't?

Brian knew that Doug could not understand how he felt about his sin. Doug had never received the Lord Jesus. Doug could not understand why Brian felt guilty — no one had seen him take the knife.

Brian's mother knew he had gone to the store to buy the knife, so she was not surprised to see it. Brian had been careful to remove the price tag, for he had told her it was \$1.50. *"I'm glad I have it just in time for camp,"* Brian said, placing it in his suitcase. But in his heart, he was not really glad.

Brian went to camp on Monday. It was there he learned why it is so easy to sin. The devil is an enemy who wants to destroy our happiness and our witness for the Lord Jesus. The Bible says the devil is like a *"roaring lion, seeking someone to devour"* or *"tear apart."* Brian was beginning to understand now why it was hard for him to do right. He began to wonder if his problems with lying and stealing could ever be solved.

One day the teacher was telling the campers about a verse from God's Word. *"Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles, (tricks) of the devil"* (Ephesians 6:11). Brian's ears perked up right away.

*"Don't think there is something wrong with you when you are tempted to sin,"* the teacher said, *"God knows about the schemes of Satan, and He has a way for us to stand against Him."*

The teacher taught Brian all about the Armor of God.

Brian thought about the knife. That day in the store, he had wanted it more than he had wanted to please God. He had wanted it so badly that he stole to get it. It seemed that he had to have the knife before camp, but he had not used it one time. He didn't even feel like using it because he knew that he had disobeyed God. He kept asking himself, *"What could I have done when I was tempted to take*

*the knife?"* Brian thought about that for a long time. He went to his teacher, Mr. Gene, and told him the whole story. Then Mr. Gene asked him, *"How could you have used God's armor and refused to sin?"* Brian wasn't sure, so his teacher asked, *"When you listened to the wrong thoughts Doug whispered to you, what piece of the armor did you fail to use?"*

[Teacher, have one of the children answer that question.]

Brian answered, *"I guess I didn't use the helmet of salvation. Then I didn't use the belt of truth or the breastplate of right doing. I lied and I did wrong."*

How did Brian lie? (He pretended before his mother that the knife cost \$1.50.) How did he do wrong? (He left the store without paying.)

The teacher nodded. *"And you did not trust God by using the shield of faith."*

*"The devil's arrow of 'that knife is more important than anything' went straight to your heart. Then, of course, you did not use the sword of the Spirit — the Word of God — so the Holy Spirit could send the devil away from you. Now let's think what you could have done."*

Mr. Gene opened his Bible and pointed to Hebrews 13:5. Brian read, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Brian was thoughtful. *"I know that verse,"* he said. *"I learned it the day I received the Lord Jesus as my Savior. I know Jesus said He would never go away. But, I never thought about Jesus being with me to help me do right."*

*"How can you let Him know you want His help?"* Mr. Gene asked.

[Teacher, have one of the children answer that question.]

*"By praying?"* Brian questioned.

Mr. Gene said, "Now let's think back to the time you took the knife and see how you could have used the armor of God to win over Satan."

[Teacher, set your notes aside and engage your students into a discussion using the following questions as an outline:]

How could Brian have used the Helmet of Salvation?

When Satan tempted Brian to steal the knife, instead of listening to Doug, he could have thought, "What would God want me to do?"

How could Brian have used the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit, against Satan?

Brian could have brought to his mind Exodus 20:15 which says, "Thou shalt not steal."

How could Brian have used the Shield of Faith?

Knowing that stealing the knife would not be truthful or right, Brian could have remembered that the Lord Jesus was right there to help him and trusted Him to do it. He could have prayed, too, and asked the Lord to help him do right and not steal the knife.

Brian had learned his lesson well. He knew now that he would never use that knife. There would be some "fixing up" to do with Joe's Sporting Goods when he got home. He would return the knife and tell the owner what he had done. He must confess his sin to his parents, too. But first he needed to confess his sins to God and ask for help to tell Doug what the Lord Jesus means to him.

Unless you have received the Lord Jesus as your Savior from sin, you have no helmet of salvation and you have no protection against Satan. Your sin still separates you from God. But the Lord Jesus took your punishment for sin so He could give you His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus wants to save you now. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved..." (Acts 16:31).

## Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You so much for teaching us all about the special armor You have provided us. Help us now remember to use it so that we can stand firm against the enemy of our hearts and souls. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

## Learning Activities

### Craft Corner

### Game Center

Let the children work on the *Armor Matching* word search, or send it home as a "take home" paper.

## Armor of God Matching

What does God call these pieces of a soldier's armor?

Draw a line from the piece of armor to its title.

BELT

FAITH

BREASTPLATE

GOSPEL

HELMET

RIGHTEOUSNESS

SHIELD

SALVATION

SHOES

SPIRIT

SWORD

TRUTH

